GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:917
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2002
INTERNATIONAL ELEPHANT FESTIVAL
MONI KUMAR SUBBA

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an International Elephant Festival is proposed to be organised in January2003 at Kaziranga National Park in Assam in collaboration with Air India, for show-casing the unique association between man and elephant;

(b) if so, the features of the festival and the Central and State Governments participation therein; and

(c) the steps/proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a): Celebration of fairs and festivals is the responsibility of the State Government/UTAdministrations. The Government of Assam proposes to organise an Elephant Festival in Assam in January, 2003.

(b) and (c): With a view to bring about an awareness of the increasing man-elephant conflict in Assam and work out measures for conflict resolution the festival is being arranged by involving active public participation. The festival will highlight the age old tradition of man-elephant co-existence in our society. Besides, parade of decorated elephants, different dimensions of elephant heritage shall also be introduced during the festival involving the elephants.

The Department of Tourism, Government of India has not sanctioned any financial assistance for this festival.